

Richard C. Hoagland

Richard Charles Hoagland^[3] (born April 25, 1945 in Morristown, New Jersey^[4]), is an American author, and a proponent of various conspiracy theories about NASA, lost alien civilizations on the Moon and on Mars and other related topics.

His writings claim that advanced civilizations exist or once existed on the Moon, Mars and on some of the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and that NASA and the United States government have conspired to keep these facts secret. He has advocated his ideas in two published books, videos, lectures, interviews,^{[5][6]} and press conferences.^{[7][8]} His views have never been published in peer-reviewed journals.^[9] Hoagland has no university degree.^[10]

Hoagland has been described by James Oberg of *The Space Review*, Phil Plait of Badastronomy.com, and Ralph Greenberg, a professor at Washington University, as a conspiracy theorist and fringe pseudoscientist.^{[11][12][13]}

1 Background

According to Hoagland's *curriculum vitae*^[4] he was a Curator of Astronomy and Space Science at the Springfield Science Museum, 1964–1967, and Assistant Director at the Gengras Science Center^[note 2] in West Hartford, Connecticut, 1967–1968, and a Science Advisor to CBS News during the Apollo program, 1968–1971. In July 1968, Hoagland filed a copyright registration for a planetarium presentation and show script called *The Grand Tour*.^[14] In 1969, he was contracted by the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation to write a chapter about the Moon for a press book. The Grumman publication was intended to educate members of the media and government officials concerning the Apollo Lunar Module.

A popular planetarium lecturer at the Springfield Science Museum, Hoagland produced a program called "Mars: Infinity to 1965" to coincide with the Mariners 3 and 4 missions.^[15] Charles Renaud produced^[16] a radio program for WTIC (AM) in Hartford, Connecticut, *The Night of the Encounter*, which covered the July 14, 1965 Mariner 4 flyby of the planet Mars.^[note 3] Hoagland was interviewed for the program at the Springfield Science Museum by WTIC announcer Dick Bertel.

In 1976, Hoagland, an avid *Star Trek* fan, initiated a letter-writing campaign that successfully persuaded Pres-

ident Gerald Ford to name the first Space Shuttle the *Enterprise*, replacing the previously slated name for the prototype vehicle, *Constitution*.^{[17][note 4]} The *Enterprise* was rolled out for public display on September 17, 1976, Constitution Day.

Hoagland authored the book *The Monuments of Mars: A City on the Edge of Forever*, and co-authored the book *Dark Mission: The Secret History of NASA*, which was ranked 21st on November 18, 2007 on The New York Times Best Seller list for paperback nonfiction.^[18]

Hoagland runs *The Enterprise Mission* website,^[19] which he describes as "an independent NASA watchdog and research group, the Enterprise Mission, attempting to figure out how much of what NASA has found in the solar system over the past 50 years has actually been silently filed out of sight as classified material, and therefore totally unknown to the American people."^[20]

Hoagland appears regularly as the "Science Advisor" for *Coast to Coast AM*, a late-night radio talk show.^[21]

While Hoagland makes frequent reference to his receipt of the "International Angstrom Medal for Excellence in Science" in August 1993, the organization that awarded the medal, The Angstrom Foundation Aktiebolag, founded by Lars-Jonas Ångström, was not authorized by Uppsala University or the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to make use of the academy's Anders Jonas Ångström memorial medal. The academy has long authorized only Uppsala University to use their medal for the Ångström's Prize (*Ångströms premium*), awarded yearly by Uppsala professors to physics students. Mr. Ångström stated in May 2000 that although his award to Hoagland was a mistake, he acted with good faith and with good intentions.^{[1][10][22][23]}

2 Claims by Hoagland

Hoagland has proposed a form of physics he calls "hyperdimensional physics",^{[24][25]} which he claims represents a more complete implementation of James Clerk Maxwell's original 20 quaternion equations,^[26] instead of the original Maxwell's equations as amended by Oliver Heaviside commonly taught today.^[27] These ideas are rejected by the mainstream physics community as unfounded.^{[28][29][30][31][32]}

Hoagland claims the "Face on Mars" is part of a city built on Cydonia Planitia consisting of very large pyramids and mounds arranged in a geometric pattern.^[33] To Hoagland,

this is evidence that an advanced civilization might once have existed on Mars.^[33] Since it was originally first imaged, the “face” has been near-universally accepted as an optical illusion,^[13] an example of the psychological phenomenon of pareidolia.^{[28][34][35]} Similar optical illusions can be found in the geology of Earth;^[36] examples include the Old Man of the Mountain, the Pedra da Gávea, and Stac Levenish.^[37]

Although the Pioneer 10 plaque was designed entirely by Carl Sagan, Linda Salzman Sagan, and Frank Drake,^[38] Hoagland has inaccurately asserted that he co-created the plaque with Eric Burgess.^[39]

3 Responses by scientists

Many scientists have responded to Hoagland’s claims and assertions. Professional astronomer Phil Plait described Hoagland as a pseudoscientist and his claims as ridiculous.^[12] Prof. Ralph Greenberg asserted that the logic of Hoagland’s deductions from the geometry of Cydonia Mensae is flawed^[13] and says that he is not a trained scientist in any sense. The claim that the crashing of the Galileo orbiter into Jupiter caused a “mysterious black spot” on the planet has since been disputed by both NASA and Plait. There is photographic evidence that a similar “black spot” was present in imagery of Jupiter taken in 1998. A second image referenced by Plait shows a dark ring which looks similar to the spot Hoagland cited.^[40] In 1995, Malin Space Science Systems, NASA prime contractor for planetary imaging, published a paper critiquing claims that the “city” at Cydonia is artificial, the claimed mathematical relationships, and — very specifically — denying any claims about concealing questionable data from the public.^[41]

In October 1997, Hoagland received the Ig Nobel Prize for Astronomy “for identifying artificial features on the moon and on Mars, including a human face on Mars and ten-mile high buildings on the far side of the moon.” The prize is a parody award given for outlandish or “trivial” contributions to science.^[2]

4 Publications

4.1 Books

- Hoagland, Richard C. (2002). *The Monuments of Mars: A City on the Edge of Forever* (5th ed.). Berkeley: Frog, Ltd. ISBN 978-1-58394-054-9.
- Hoagland, Richard C.; Bara, Mike (2009). *Dark Mission: The Secret History of NASA, Revised and Expanded Edition*. Port Townsend: Feral House. ISBN 978-1-932595-48-2.

4.2 Contributions, introductions, fore-words

- Hoagland, Richard C.; Bova, Ben (May 1977). “The origin of the solar system”. In Bova, Ben; Bell, Trudy E. *Closeup: new worlds*. Chapter by Richard C. Hoagland and Ben Bova. New York: St. Martin’s Press. ISBN 978-0-312-14490-6.
- Haas, George J.; Saunders, William R. (2005). *The Cydonia Codex: Reflections from Mars*. Forewords by Dr. Mark J. Carlotto and Richard C. Hoagland. ISBN 978-1-58394-121-8.
- NASA (1972). “The Moon”. In Hoagland, Richard C. *NASA Apollo Spacecraft Lunar Excursion Module News Reference*. Chapter by Richard C. Hoagland. Periscope Film LLC (published September 2011). ISBN 978-1-937684-98-3.

4.3 Videos

- Hoagland, Richard C. (Author (with NASA Lewis Research Center)) (1990). *Monuments of Mars: City on the Edge of Forever* (VHS tape). Cleveland, OH: NASA Lewis Research Center. OCLC 23350482.
- Hoagland, Richard C. (Executive Producer, Writer (with Geline, Robert J.)) (1992). *The Monuments of Mars: A Terrestrial Connection* (VHS tape). New York: BC Video Inc. OCLC 41520112.
- Hoagland, Richard C. (1996). *Hoagland’s Mars, Vol. 1, The NASA-Cydonia Briefings* (VHS tape). Venice, CA: UFO Central Home Video. OCLC 41559991. Short version, revised and updated
- Hoagland, Richard C. (Disk 1: “The Gods of Cydonia: The Case for Ancient Artificial Structures in the Solar System”) (2005). *God, Man and ET: The Question of Other Worlds in Science, Theology, and Mythology* (DVD). Venice, CA: Knowledge 2020 Media. OCLC 58528205.

5 Notes

- [1] A private award presented to Hoagland by Lars-Jonas Ångström in Washington, D.C., August 1993; not to be confused with the long-established Ångström’s Prize (*Ångströms premium*), awarded yearly by professors at Uppsala University to physics students.
- [2] The Children’s Museum, formerly The Science Center of Connecticut, is home to the Gengras Planetarium.
- [3] The WTIC radio program, *A Night of Encounter* (submission title), was submitted by WTIC President Paul W. Morency as an entry for a Peabody Award, but it

did not win. Contrary to what Hoagland states on his [biography page](#), the program was not nominated for the award since there is no intermediate level of competition. All winners are chosen directly from the entire field of accepted entries. The entry form, along with an archival 7" 45 rpm [gramophone](#) audio recording of the program, are currently being held at the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the [University of Georgia Libraries](#) in Athens, Georgia. WTIC announcer Dick Bertel hosted the program and interviewed Hoagland. The program also featured a conversation between Hoagland and astronomer Dr. Robert S. Richardson, associate director of the Griffith Observatory.

- [4] In "Why 'Enterprise'?", *The Enterprise Mission* credits the 1976 Space Shuttle letter-writing campaign as being "organized by Richard C. Hoagland and a small group of associates, including White House consultant, Jerome Glenn." Glenn is the co-founder and Director of The Millennium Project, a think tank. His résumé posted on his organization's website mentions that he was "instrumental in naming the first Space Shuttle the Enterprise."

6 References

- [1] "rich-ang.jpg". The Enterprise Mission. Retrieved April 18, 2013. Image of an Anders Jonas Ångström memorial medal of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Lars-Jonas Ångström with Richard C. Hoagland in Washington, D.C.
- [2] "The 1997 Ig Nobel Prize Winners". Improbable Research, Inc. Retrieved April 18, 2013.
- [3] "Mars Pathfinder Conspiracy". *Coast to Coast AM*. June 17, 1997. Retrieved November 16, 2012. Art Bell confirms that Hoagland's middle name is Charles.
- [4] Richard C. Hoagland on Facebook
- [5] Grossinger, Richard, ed. (1986). "The 'Face' on Mars". *Planetary Mysteries: Megaliths, Glaciers, the Face on Mars, and Aboriginal Dreamtime*. Berkeley: North Atlantic Books. ISBN 978-0-938190-90-5.
- [6] Hoagland, Richard (December 2007). *Dark Mission: Richard Hoagland*. Interview with Kerry Cassidy. Retrieved November 16, 2012.
- [7] "NASA Cover-Ups Continue". National Press Club. The news conference was sponsored by the Enterprise Mission. October 30, 2007. Archived from the original on November 3, 2007. Retrieved November 2, 2012. Two press releases were issued by *The Enterprise Mission* website announcing the 30 October 2007 National Press Club new conference, dated October 22, 2007 and October 30, 2007. Video excerpt: "Richard C. Hoagland Press Conference - October 30, 2007". YouTube. Uploaded by user aparfrey on February 16, 2009.
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- [9] Knize, Francis C. P. (May 28, 2004). "OMB Peer Review: Public Comment Concerning NASA" (PDF). Washington, D.C.: The White House. p. 12. Retrieved November 16, 2012. Efrain Palermo and Richard Hoagland for their previous research which was submitted as peer reviewed material concerning the feature of water streaks on Mars and the possibility of water actually being able to collect on the surface. Efrain Palermo writes on his personal website: "I am not a scientist or a geologist. I am a layman astronomer and an artist."
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- [11] Oberg, James (January 21, 2008). "The dark side of space disaster theories". *The Space Review*. Retrieved November 16, 2012.
- [12] Plait, Phil (2008). "Richard Hoagland's Nonsense". *Bad Astronomy* (Blog). badastronomy.com. Retrieved November 16, 2012.
- [13] Ralph Greenberg. "The D&M Pyramid On Mars And Richard Hoagland'S Theories About Cydonia". Math.washington.edu. Archived from the original on 2014-07-19. Retrieved 2014-07-30.
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- [17] Deming, Joan; Slovinac, Patricia et al. (July 2008). "NASA-wide Survey and Evaluation of Historic Facilities in the Context of the U.S. Space Shuttle Program: Roll-Up Report" (PDF). Washington, D.C.: Prepared by Archaeological Consultants, Inc. for NASA. p. 36. Retrieved November 17, 2012. Report cites Heppenheimer, Tom A. (2002). *Development of the Space Shuttle, 1972–1981*. History of the Space Shuttle. Vol. 2. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press. pp. 100–101. ISBN 978-1-58834-009-2.
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- [19] "The Enterprise Mission" (Official website). The Enterprise Mission. Retrieved April 10, 2013.
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- [27] See Maxwell’s equations § Conventional formulation in SI units (especially details on Lorentz–Heaviside units)
- [28] Charles M. Wynn, Arthur W. Wiggins, *Quantum Leaps in the Wrong Direction: Where Real Science Ends... and Pseudoscience begins* (Joseph Henry Press, 2001). ISBN 0-309-17135-0
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7 External links

- Official website

7.1 Hoagload biography sites

- Richard C. Hoagland - Guests - Coast to Coast AM Richard C. Hoagland’s biography and list of guest appearances on *Coast to Coast AM*.
- Richard C. Hoagland at the Internet Movie Database
- Richard C. Hoagland at the Internet Speculative Fiction Database
- Richard C. Hoagland on Facebook

7.2 Debunking websites

- Oberg, James (January 21, 2008). “The dark side of space disaster theories”. *The Space Review*. Retrieved November 16, 2012.
- Plait, Phil (2008). “Richard Hoagland’s Nonsense”. *Bad Astronomy* (Blog). badastronomy.com. Retrieved November 16, 2012.
- Dr. Ralph Greenberg, Professor of Mathematics (2004). “Richard C. Hoagland Index”. Department of Mathematics, University of Washington. Archived from the original on 2013-10-07. Retrieved 2014-07-30.
- Exposing PseudoAstronomy Podcast
 - Ep 26: Richard C. Hoagland, Part 1 - 19.5°
 - Ep 59: The Face on Mars, Part 1
 - Ep 60: The Face on Mars, Part 2
 - Ep 68: Expat in Hoaglandia: A Fantasia of NASA Conspiracies
 - Ep 72: Solar System Mysteries “Solved” by PseudoScience, Part 1 - Iapetus

- Ep 79: Is the Movie “John Carter” a Leak by Those “In the Know?”
- Ep 82: How to Design a Hyperdimensional Physics Experiment - Discusses Hoaglands claims about torsion physics and how to go about testing them.
- Ep 88: Is Phobos Hollow? - Discussion of Richard Hoaglands 2010 claims that the Martian moon, Phobos is hollow.

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